

Washington, Dc – Congresswoman Gwen Moore today released the following statements on the commemoration of Equal Pay Day:

“In 1963, when the Equal Pay Act was signed into law to grant the right to equal pay to women who worked full-time, year-round, women made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men doing the same level of work. In 2006, women earned 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. While that is progress, it is slow progress and it means that the wage gap between men and women has narrowed by less than half a cent per year since passage of that law. At the same time, African American women today earn only 63 cents and Hispanic women bring home just 52 cents for each dollar earned by men

“In Wisconsin, women with a college degree still make considerably less than men with the same amount of education. With rising gas prices, higher health insurance, and a disproportionate amount of single-family homes headed by women, it is of the utmost importance that workers receive fair and equal pay for equal work. This is not just a civil rights issue; it’s a survival issue for women workers providing for their family’s food, rent, and heat.

“Earlier this year, the House passed two key pieces of legislation--H.R. 12, the Paycheck Fairness Act and H.R. 11, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. And we celebrated as President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law but there is still more work to do to make the Paycheck Fairness Act law. The Paycheck Fairness Act is another vital piece of legislation we need to strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 by providing more effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work. The bill would prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their co-workers, require the Department of Labor to enhance outreach and training efforts to work with employers to eliminate pay disparities, and create a new grant program to help strengthen the negotiation skills of girls and women.

“While there is clearly more work to do towards achieving pay equality, it is important that we all remember that equal work deserves equal pay, no matter your gender, skin color, national origin, age or disability. I will continue to support establishing equal pay for equal work for all workers.”

###